

ensures that our community colleges are preparing students for the manufacturing jobs of the future.

Secondly, I have circulated a discussion draft of the America Competes Reauthorization Act which includes several initiatives that would help revitalize American manufacturing such as innovative technology federal loan guarantees to small- and medium-sized manufacturers to help them become more efficient and stay competitive and the creation of a network of industry-led manufacturing centers that will accelerate the development and commercialization of manufacturing technologies and processes.

I strongly believe that if the United States is to remain competitive in the long term, we need to ensure that American companies maintain the capacity to manufacture new and innovative products here at home.

The decline of U.S. manufacturing is a threat to middle class jobs and our economy. We need our manufacturing sector to be the most sophisticated in the world, using transformative technologies and innovative manufacturing processes. H.R. 1421, the manufacturing provisions in the Competes Act, and the "Make it in America" agenda will help to ensure that U.S. companies have the tools and the workforce they need to meet the challenge ahead.

HONORING MS. VIRGINIA
DAVENPORT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Virginia Davenport. At a young age Ms. Davenport, along with her five siblings, was put up for adoption due to unfortunate circumstances following the family's move to Philadelphia. In and out of foster homes during these early years, Ms. Davenport faced the myriad of challenges children can experience within the foster care system. Despite these difficult times, Ms. Davenport pressed on with faith in a God above and the determination to improve her situation.

Ms. Davenport went on to attend the Power Sewing School, Simon Gratz High School, Government Nurses Aid Training School, and various other educational institutions. She recently graduated from the first level of the Deliverance Bible Institute (DEBI) with outstanding marks and will continue with the next level of DEBI this upcoming semester. Throughout all of this, she has made every effort to reach out and support young people at every opportunity she is afforded. She is active in Intercessory Prayer, the Home Care Department, and Helping Hand Ministries. Ms. Davenport intends to continue to dedicate her time to bettering herself and her community and hopes to be an inspiration to those around her.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to community has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Davenport for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ITS WASHINGTON PROJECT CENTER AND 25 YEARS OF ITS VENICE, ITALY PROJECT CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Washington Project Center opened 40 years ago to bridge the divide between scientific research and social policy recommendations. Since 1973, more than 1,100 WPI students have completed more than 400 projects for government agencies, community-based companies and institutions, multinational corporations, and nonprofit partners.

The Center's success became the model for the WPI Global Studies Program, which has seen more than 22,000 budding scientists and engineers successfully complete and implement 3,600 projects across a wide range of areas, including environment, consumer protection, patents and copyrights and art and history.

At WPI's 39 centers across the world—covering four continents and cities ranging from Alberta to Zurich to Bangkok to Cape Town to Panama City—students work with some of the world's largest companies, most influential non-profit and non-governmental organizations and most important scientific governmental agencies.

Among the centers is the Venice Project Center, founded in 1988 by WPI Professor and native Venetian Fabio Carrera. In his 25 years of leading students to Venice, Carrera has spearheaded invaluable research about, among other areas, erosion within the city's famed canals, which was captured in a book by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

These great young minds bring ingenious approaches to an outstanding array of challenges—and the projects fundamentally change the students, building leaders who possess passion, proficiency, and a certainty that their life's work can change the world.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud to represent WPI, a world renowned institution for higher learning committed to educating our next generation of leaders. While WPI students are working to better communities across the globe, their longstanding history of service to my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, should also be recognized.

I commend WPI students, faculty, leadership, and staff for their commitment to science education and global leadership. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing their incredible achievements.

TO RECOGNIZE THE WOODS SERVICES' 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 100 years of committed dedi-

cation by Woods Services to children, adults and families affected by developmental disabilities.

Founded in 1913 by Philadelphia school teacher Mollie Woods, the organization has worked for the last century to advance the quality of life and the standard of care for individuals with disabilities—a cause worth acknowledgment each day, but especially on this monumental anniversary. Today, Woods offers exceptional and experienced care for those with autism, brain injuries, learning disabilities and emotional and behavioral challenges.

The loyal staff at Woods provides a vital service in our community, and a remarkably important role in the life and development of those they care for. I am honored to represent those who do such important work at Wood, and wish them continued success in the next 100 years.

BRIDGE DEDICATION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great tribute to have the Poplar Street Bridge renamed in my honor. I wish to thank those who participated in making this happen. Let me personally thank . . .

Let me especially thank my friend, Representative Penny Hubbard, for her untiring effort in managing the bill through the legislature.

Let me say to Rep. Penny and those that participated in naming this bridge in my honor that prior to this dedication, two bridges have had a special meaning in the life of the Clay family and me. The first was the McKinley Bridge, where the electric train carried my father, five days a week, back and forth, to work in Venice, Illinois, for more than 30 years.

He earned a good living that enabled him to take care of his wife of 60 years and us 7 children. How can the Clay's not remember and appreciate what that fabulous bridge meant in our lives?

The second bridge that had a tremendous influence in my life was the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama. It was there on a Sunday that John Lewis and 600 other marchers attempted to cross on their way to Montgomery. They were peacefully demanding the right to register and vote like all other Americans.

But Governor George Wallace ordered local and state police to stop the march on the flimsy ground of "public safety."

What followed is now infamously known as "Bloody Sunday." Police, armed with billy clubs, dogs, and tear gas, were seen around the world on television beating men, women, and children unmercifully.

That scene on the Edmund Pettis Bridge was the stimulus for passing the 1965 Voting Rights Act and subsequently my election to Congress. At the time, there were only five blacks in Congress. Today, because of what happened on that bridge, there are 42 blacks.

My mission while in Congress for 32 years was to build bridges that carried resources to the economically underprivileged, and to those discriminated against because of race, gender and age.

My message to those of you still battling the forces of hatred and ignorance is to ignore that group of idiots that want to destroy bridges provided by government assistance. Do not join those chanting the idiotic slogan of "government is the problem and should get out of the way."

Government has a sacred responsibility to play a major role in building bridges that elevate the standard of living for its citizens. It must build roads leading to bridges that take our children to schools, our adults to jobs, our sick to hospitals.

Bridges must enable the working poor to move into the middle class and our seniors to live the remainder of their lives in dignity.

You in the legislative body must always remember that bridges take people to untold opportunities. I am proud of the bridges I helped build while in Congress that now provide for family and medical leave, that gave political freedom to federal employees, that assured that after five years you are vested in your pension plan, that rewrote the higher education law, the elementary and secondary education bill, and, yes, Rep. Hubbard, the one that makes our workplace safe.

Yes, Rep. Penny Hubbard, I know you will continue building bridges that take people from poverty to prosperity, from hopelessness to dreams fulfilled.

Government must not let the excessive greed of some exploit the helpless in the name of providing jobs that pay less than a living wage.

Government must provide the bridges that guarantee a good education for its citizens, a decent job with adequate pay and health benefits, a nice home in a safe neighborhood. If building bridges that establish a strong, vibrant middle class is seen as government being in the way, I say to those . . . well, I say that, and much more.

OK, I have had my say. So, Rep. Penny Hubbard, let me thank you again for remembering that bridges have played an indispensable role in my life. Thanks for remembering that building bridges has made my life worth living.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL C. ROBERT KEHLER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. COOPER and I ask for the House's attention to honor General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, on his imminent retirement from the United States Air Force.

General Kehler has been an exemplary officer and an outstanding leader. Over the course of his 38 year career in the Air Force, he has made countless sacrifices for our country. We wish to commend his service; the sacrifices of his family, including his wife Marjorie and their two sons; and to express our great appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our nation's security.

It would not be possible for us to do justice to the many and various accomplishments of General Kehler's distinguished 38 year career

in the Air Force, but please allow us to highlight a few.

General Kehler's selection as Commander of U.S. Strategic Command was apt—he started his career as a young nuclear missile officer in 1975. Rising quickly through the Air Force, he went on to command space and missile units at Whiteman, Malmstrom, Vandenberg and Peterson Air Force Bases. His positive leadership has directly influenced countless men and women in our Armed Forces, and the positive effects of his service to our country will be felt for generations to come.

General Kehler has been a vigilant champion of our nation's nuclear deterrent. As Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, he's spent nearly three years ensuring our nation's nuclear forces remain strong and ready—not counting his earlier tour as Deputy Commander of Strategic Command. His efforts were instrumental in our nation's Nuclear Posture Review, and he has worked closely with Congress to ensure that our military has been able to accomplish the essential missions of Strategic Command, including nuclear deterrence. Through his leadership at Strategic Command, General Kehler has been an essential defender of our nation's critical space assets. He has worked closely with the Armed Services Committee, and it has been our great pleasure to work with him. As chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, we are grateful for General Kehler's wise counsel and firm resolve to always do what is best for the nation and for the men and women he leads.

Mr. Speaker, with nearly four decades of exemplary service to our nation, General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. He has been a credit to the military and we hope he will continue to find ways to serve the United States. Thank you, General—and best wishes to you and your family.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL LINN AS NEW CEO EMERITUS OF NIADA

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael R. Linn as the new CEO Emeritus of the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association (NIADA) that is headquartered in Arlington, Texas, in my district.

Prior to his new position, Mr. Linn served as the CEO of NIADA from 1999 to 2013. Under his leadership, membership rose beyond 20,000 members. In addition, NIADA added significant value to the automotive industry with its legislative and regulatory presence in the Nation's capitol. Expanded education programs, which include the Certified Master Dealer (CMD) Program and Certified F&I Professional Program, have greatly enhanced the professionalism of the industry. In 2004, the NIADA Educational Television Network (NIADA-TV) was created to better educate the nation's automotive dealers. In 2006, another educational TV network, Automotive Consumer Television, was developed to also educate consumers about the motor vehicle in-

dustry. All of these occurred during Mr. Linn's tenure. He also currently serves as a Board Member on the National Automotive Advisory Board at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan.

Prior to joining NIADA, Mr. Linn served as the Executive Director of the Carolinas Independent Automobile Dealers Association that serves the industry in both North and South Carolina. With over 26 years of extensive experience in the motor vehicle industry, he is extremely knowledgeable of industry issues and the issues facing today's professional automobile dealer.

Prior to working in the motor vehicle industry, Mr. Linn enjoyed a career in the motion picture and television industry as an Executive Producer. He is a graduate of LaSalle University with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) and is a Certified Program Planner. He has written several training manuals on the car rental industry, Federal labor laws and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Michael Linn is a native of North Carolina.

The National Independent Automobile Dealers Association, founded in 1946, has represented the used motor vehicle industry for over 67 years. NIADA's mission is to assist its members in becoming more successful within the automotive industry by bringing valuable information, services and benefits designed to prepare them for an ever-changing and ever-challenging marketplace.

Again, congratulations to Michael Linn as the new CEO Emeritus of NIADA.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,154,624,205,951.04. We've added \$6,527,747,157,037.96 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING RIO HONDO TRUSTEE ANGELA ACOSTA-SALAZAR

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angela Acosta-Salazar, a member of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, for her tireless work in increasing access to higher education.

Professionally, Angela has committed herself to the issues of higher education and community empowerment. Through her service as Trustee she fostered relationships and strengthened communications between the college and its student body. As an educator, Angela has educated hundreds of students in the Social Sciences and has created a space